

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003456 TOSEC 130182
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003456 TOSEC 130182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER
O'KENNEDY

REF: SECTO 13112

1. SETTING. WHILE O'KENNEDY REGARDS MEETING ESSENTIALLY AS ONE OF COURTESY, HE WOULD WELCOME YOUR REFLECTIONS ON YOUR CURRENT TRIP WITH THE PRESIDENT. VISIT GIVES US OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WITH IRELAND, AN EC COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE EXCELLENT TIES. THERE ARE NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROBLEMS. YOU LAST MET WITH O'KENNEDY AT THE UNGA OCTOBER 1.

2. ISSUES/TALKING POINTS.

A. NORTHERN IRELAND. SECURITY SITUATION IS IMPROVED BUT POLITICAL STALEMATE CONTINUES. UK NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE MASON'S CURRENT TALKS WITH NI LEADERS ARE UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE RESULTS. IRISH GOVERNMENT FEARS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 003456 TOSEC 130182

STALEMATE WILL PROMPT REVIVAL OF TERRORIST CAMPAIGNS AND WANTS LONDON TO ACT MORE VIGOROUSLY IN BRINGING ABOUT DECLARED UK POLICY OF "POWER SHARING" IN NI BETWEEN

PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS. BOTH IRISH AND UK GOVERNMENTS WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 30 STATEMENT ON NI (BEING SENT SEPTTEL). O'KENNEDY REAFFIRMED IRISH APPRECIATION

DURING YOUR OCTOBER 1 UNGA MEETING.

-- ASK O'KENNEDY'S VIEWS ON CURRENT NI SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS.

-- AS PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT DEMONSTRATES, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NI. WHILE USG POLICY REMAINS NON-INVOLVEMENT, WE WANT TO BEAR CONSTRUCTIVELY ON ISSUE AND BE HELPFUL TO ALL WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL, JUST SOLUTION.

-- (IF ASKED) WE ARE STUDYING HOW WE MIGHT ENCOURAGE US INVESTMENT IN NI IN THE EVENT OF A SETTLEMENT THERE (MENTIONED IN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT) BUT HAVE MADE NO RPT NO DECISIONS.

B. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IRELAND IS AN ACTIVE EC MEMBER AND DID MUCH TO ENHANCE US-EC DIALOGUE WHEN COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN JANUARY-JUNE 1975.

-- UNDERSCORE OUR SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNITY, A STRONG EC AND A CLOSER US-EC RELATIONSHIP, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EC COMMISSION.

-- SAY WE WANT CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE EC IN ALL AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 003456 TOSEC 130182

C. IRISH BEEF. (IF RAISED) SINCE WE IMPOSED COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF SUBSIDIZED IRISH BEEF IN 1976, IRELAND HAS NOT EXPORTED ANY BEEF TO US. AS A RESULT THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANNUAL US VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS CONTROLLING BEEF EXPORTS INTO US. THE IRISH HOPE TO RESUME EXPORTS TO US WHEN PRICE AND DEMAND CONDITIONS PERMIT. THEY FEAR THEIR ABSENCE FROM US MARKET FOR SEVERAL YEARS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR FUTURE CHANCES TO OBTAIN A REASONABLE SHARE OF THE US IMPORT MARKET, PARTICULARLY UNDER A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT SYSTEM.

-- WE HAVE NOT NEGOTIATED A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WITH IRELAND FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OUR ESTIMATE THAT THE IRISH WOULD NOT BE SHIPPING BEEF TO THE US PRECLUDED THE NEED FOR SUCH

AN AGREEMENT.

-- WE ARE SETTING NO OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF UNSUBSIDIZED IRISH BEEF EXPORTS TO THE US. WE WOULD BE PREPARED

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM IRELAND TO BE INCLUDED IN
ANY NEW VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT SHOULD THERE
BE A REAL POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED IRISH ENTRY INTO
OUR MARKET.

3. DRAFTER: EUR/NE:CWSCHALLER:EUR/RPE:ECASEY
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